

Transportation Commission Minutes

March 23, 2011

Kathy Moehring called the Transportation Commission to order at 7:04 p.m.

1. Roll Call

Roll was called and the following was recorded:

Members Present:

Philip Tribuzio
Thomas G. Bertken- late
Jesus Vargas
Kathy Moehring
Kirsten Zazo- absent (AUSD Spring break)

Staff Present:

Obaid Khan, Supervising Civil Engineer
Gail Payne, Transportation Coordinator
Daraja Wagner, Administrative Assistant

2. Minutes

Two revisions to the draft meeting minutes were requested:

- 1) To spell Straehlo correctly; and
- 2) To correct the bicycle parking annual expenditures to \$5,000.

Commissioner Jesus Vargas moved approval of the revised minutes for the February 26, 2011 meeting. *Commissioner Philip Tribuzio* seconded the motion. Motion passed 3-0.

3. Oral Communications – Non-Agenda

Commissioner Vargas cautioned everyone to drive safely in the rain.

4. New Business

4A. Presentation of Quarterly Report on Activities Related to Transpiration Policies and Plans.

Outcome: Commission to provide comments.

Staff Payne summarized the staff report.

Open public hearing.

Commissioner Moehring stated that the long-range transit plan update should be a work in progress. The plan will need to constantly evolve to fit the needs of the city. The plan needs to be flexible and a constantly evolving process.

Staff Khan responded that he agreed that this plan should be supported in phases. Alameda Point will grow in phases, and so will the transit plan. Maybe shuttle systems should be in place first, then the shuttles would transition to buses. It will be a growing transit system that grows with the development project. A Highway Safety Improvement Program grant was received for signal coordination on Park Street totaling \$964,000 with \$733,000 from the federal government and \$231,000 as the local match.

Close public hearing.

No action was taken.

4B. Alameda Countywide Transportation Plan Update / Transportation Expenditure Plan Development

Outcome: Commission members to complete the questionnaire.

Staff Khan summarized the staff report.

Commissioner Bertken asked if presentation was on the internet.

Staff Khan responded that he did not know why it was not on the Alameda CTC website and that he would look into it.

Staff Payne responded that she would send the document via e-mail in PDF format.

Staff Khan expressed that he did not want to place it in a public forum if they had not placed it on their own web site.

Commissioner Moehring responded that it would be great if they could have access to it.

Staff Khan asked if the commissioners could take the time to complete the surveys so that they could be submitted to the Alameda CTC. He stated that it would be greatly appreciated.

Staff Khan asked what specific projects and plans would the commissioners like to see be prioritized in the upcoming projects/plans.

Commissioner Bertken asked if there were any projects related to the ferry system.

Staff Khan responded that the ferry was under the Metropolitan Transportation Commission and that was out of the city's jurisdiction. He also stated that MTC is looking into it, but he did not know what projects they would be proposing. In terms of the discussion, the ferries were listed as one of the transit modes.

Commissioner Bertken asked if Measure B could support the ferries.

Staff Khan responded that the money for the ferries had been shifted to MTC.

Commissioner Vargas stated that it was good to see the pie chart with the percentages and questioned if there was any intent to find more capital for a lifeline project. *Vargas* also asked *Staff Khan* if he could recall if there were any projects that were put on the wish list from the city that were being considered but did not end up getting included.

Staff Khan responded that one project that was included in the current Measure B is the Broadway-Jackson project. He did not have more project information at this time yet will provide them with that information. Khan also stated that city sponsored projects like fixing the sidewalks and streetlights are being funded from Measure B. This program is funded based on the population of each jurisdiction. The county collects the sales tax, and then divides it up to each jurisdiction based on its population formula.

Commissioner Moehring asked that with the Webster Street SMART corridor being completed this summer, which means new stop lights being installed, did this project include streetscape improvements on Webster Street between Atlantic Avenue and Pacific Avenue?

Staff Khan responded that the CWTP/TEP projects need to be regionally significant and have regional support due to limited funding. They have applied for different streetscape types of funding, but not for Measure B.

Commissioner Tribuzio stated that the bike lane on Shoreline Drive and Westline Drive being put on the street would take up lots of room and make it difficult for parking and also would be hazardous for the drivers and to the bike riders. *Tribuzio* proposed expanding the existing bike path on the bayside property. The land belongs to the city or the state, and it can be made flat. This idea would get bikes off the street and would give people a walkway. *Commissioner Tribuzio* stated that he sees a lot of traffic and thinks it would be easier and cheaper to do this path concept.

Staff Khan responded that several issues were raised; one is bicyclists' needs in the street verses off the street, how to address the parking and circulation, and also the park area and connecting that system. In terms of bicyclist needs, the corridor provides beautiful views. One of the things in the long-term plan is to enhance the path in which *Commissioner Tribuzio* was referring to but

it is actually a very expensive project. All the street light fixtures will have to be fixed and drainage is also a big issue. This project gets very expensive, but the City may apply for it under Measure B because it does go over \$5 million. In terms of *Commissioner Tribuzio's* question of why reduce the lanes, it does make it better for bicyclists because they now have a defined path of travel, and it will also take into account the opening of car doors. This project also will help open up parking. The travel lanes will be reduced to two instead of four, and will create parking lanes with bike lanes. Then bicyclists will have a separate track. Right now, bicyclists are running into pedestrians because the path is not very wide. We are also very limited with land because we cannot just go and ask the state to give us the land. It will be a lot of coordination with the East Bay Regional Park District to see what they can do as well as what we can do. It is in the process but nothing can be assured until funding is given.

Commissioner Tribuzio asked if they were going to put in a bike lane and take the parking off of Westline Drive.

Staff Khan responded that the travel lane would be taken out making the street more pedestrian and bicycle friendly. It is also very important to look at transit, and to see how buses are able to stop. So this project also would make it better for transit on Shoreline Drive.

Commissioner Tribuzio stated that the only way for him to leave out of his residence is to drive out onto Westline Drive, and if it was reduced down to two lanes that he would be affected.

Staff Khan responded that they would work with the community and it is required by state law under CEQA that all impacts need to be documented.

Commissioner Moehring asked if *Staff Khan* had any desire to get the questions out to more people?

Staff Khan responded that people should go to the Alameda CTC website, and also stated that the meeting was a public meeting and hopes that people who are watching at home will log onto the website. *Staff Khan* also suggested to e-blast the Transportation Commission email list about the website and how to provide comments.

Commissioner Vargas asked if it would be any benefit to send the surveys to some of the schools and get their input?

Staff Khan stated that follow up could be done with *Commissioner Zazo* to get that information.

Commissioner Vargas stated that he had three concepts to share about all of the projects. One is an electric car charging station. As vehicles become more electric friendly that is something that will be compatible with land uses. Secondly, to look for funding on removal of the railroad tracks that are in the city. Lastly, working with the transit orientated development theme, develop a transit terminal that has housing and employment whether for the buses or ferry. It's a good start with some density to get the ball rolling to start exploring compatibilities with AB32 and SP375.

Staff Khan responded that one bill aims to reduce greenhouse gases and the other states how to do it and has specific targets that we would have to meet as a state. In terms of the projects proposed by *Commissioner Vargas*, *Staff Khan* stated that in terms of the electric car charging stations, that is something that is on the land use side and we are looking at the transportation side for moving people. However, he does not take the suggestion lightly and thinks that it is a good suggestion. It is being looked at by staff as a sustainable infrastructure. In regards to the railroad tracks, there are some legal issues and the City is working on it. In terms of the TOD, you have to be in a PDA, which are areas defined by MTC. Alameda Landing and Alameda Point are the PDAs in the City, so money will be attracted to those areas. The transit center idea also will be part of the application.

Close public hearing.

No action was taken.

5. Staff Communications

Updated AC Transit Announcements for Potential June and September 2011 Transit Service Changes.

Staff Payne stated that the minor changes to be made in March have been postponed until June 2011 and that cuts are expected to take place in September 2011. *Staff Payne* will continue to update the TC.

Future Meeting Agenda Items

Staff Payne stated that future meeting agenda items for the April meeting look to be as follows:

TSM/TDM preliminary measures
AC Transit service cuts/changes

6. Announcements

Commissioner Bertken apologized for being late.

7. Adjournment

8:09 PM